

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S. Patent No.: 5,915,205) and claims 2-4 and 8 as being obvious over Chen in view of McMullan Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,142,690). Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-7 are pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a communication system, comprising: a network, one or more optical transmitters and that may be subjected to potential noise sources, wherein the communication system includes a filter means coupled between the noise sources and the at least one optical transmitter, which filter means have a cut-off frequency, dependent on the noise frequency, wherein the cut-off frequency of the filter means lies in the range of 10 to 15 MHz.

Applicants can find nothing in Chen and McMullan Jr. et al., alone or in combination that teaches, a filter means coupled between the noise sources and the at least one optical transmitter, which filter means have a cut-off frequency, dependent on the noise frequency, wherein the cut-off frequency of the filter

means lies in the range of 10 to 15 MHz, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Amended independent claims 7 recites similar limitations.

The Office Action indicates that Chen teaches these limitations in col. 2, lines 40-45, and in col. 5, lines 1-15. Applicants respectfully disagree. Chen simply teaches an antenna is coupled to an adaptive filter which is also coupled to the cable distribution system... for canceling radio frequency interference....

In contrast, the Applicant teaches a filter means coupled between the noise sources and the at least one optical transmitter, which filter means have a cut-off frequency, which is chosen in dependence on the noise frequency, wherein the cut-off frequency of the filter means lies in the range of 10 to 15 MHz. It is an advantage of the communication system according to the invention that the filter means thus devised are capable of preventing the communication system to blank-out, because at least a clipping of the optical transmitter or transmitters in the system during such periods of noise interference is obviated. See specification on page 2, line 2-10.

The addition of McMullan Jr. et al. does not cure the infirmities of Chen.

Accordingly, as Chen and McMullan Jr. et al., alone or in combination, do not teach, show or suggest all of the features of amended independent claims 1

and 7, as recited above, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over these references.

Other dependent claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed allowable and patentable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.



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